

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #51]

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with

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by

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"As well as remembered."

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Page 1 Interview with Vito Cacciola

by Merton R. Lovett

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(from memory)

"Meeta de salesman from Hood's Rubber Company. Mr. Mazini, I was justa tell-ed to Mr. Lovett, that I giva you all my money lasta week. Did you hava news of de new machine which I wisha to buy?

"You thinka I can get it O.K. How long is this machine?

"So it is 14 feeta long? Does it doa do stitching so well as de finishing?

"That is good, Mr. Mazini. Did de owner agree to sella for \$50.00?

"Sure, I will not mention de price. I willa be a most secret. I hava plan-ed for de friend of mine to despect it today.

"Whata you say? It will costa ten dollars to shipa it here from Methuen? My! My! Leta me intenda to that. I can senda truck from Beverly for lessa than ten dollars.

"You is right. I should hava new machine long time ago. Often I geta enough money, but I spenda it. Once it costa me one thousand dollars to go homa to Sicily. Now I 2 must geta de machine by second hand. I hava not \$400. for de fresh machine.

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"So you thinka it so good as new? We will see, we will see.

"No! Looka here. I has now plenty of rubber heels. I cannot paya for some more.

"Sure I hava good credit. I wanta to remain that way. Perhaps your company would trusta me six months but I would not permita it.

"So you must giva Hell to de cobbler across de street. He has owe you money for long time. Hah! Hah! If I owa you, Mr. Mazini, I too will catcha Hell.

"No, I does not think you geta money from that foolish cobbler. He cannot manage his business with success. I knowa him with much regret.

"I should saya so. Once I loan-ed to him \$100.00. Bye and bye he aska me to buy for him some leather. I was crazy. I doa so. He still owes to me \$80.00.

"He cannot succeeda. He geta handicap from his family. They do not conoperate. They are dextravagent. His wife buya this and buya that. My jingo, in de winter she weara de fur coat. Believe you me, I think I paya for it.

"In course, I would lika to enjoy myself. But I does 3 not wish to paya for leather C.O.D. Sometimes I also would lika de wife. After work that cobbler goa home to his Marie. He aska her for kisses. He aska her for love. He aska her for this and that. Vito, he must goa to bed alone. But I hava no bills not paid.

"Often I wanta to enjoy simple pleasures also. I would like to take wheel of automobile and fly along de street. I wisha to go for long ride in de bus. I cannot afforda it."

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"What does you supposa I do Sunday, Mr. Lovett? You will not believea it.

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"No! I tella you. I maka de flight in airplane. Did you ever soara up?

"It wasa most thrilling. I walka to Beverly airport. Many peoples were there. I watcha for long time.

"Yes, I wasa nervous, but I saya to myself, 'Vito, there is not mucha danger. No peoples geta kill-ed here. You must be a brave. If you die you hasa de good conscience, and will not arriva in Hell.'

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"De airplane holda three passengers. It was mosta handsome, paint-ed red. They calla it de monaplane, with cabin. Did you knowa that job?

"Sure, I puta on de safety belt, I couldn't falla out. Besides de motorman he closa de door.

"Almost before I realize, we was sneaka up. I felta most uplifted. My heart beata fast. Quickly we climba to de sky. I could seea de great distance, de lakes, de ocean, de land so far as Lynn. It was spreada out below most marvelous. I remembered from de Bible what it says, 'De eye has not seen and de ear has not heart'.

"No, I did not feela dizzy. When I am upa de ladder I feela that way, but de airplane it wasa different.

"Once I geta frightened. Dear, dear, dear! I saya many prayers. My heart choka de throat.

"I will explaina. In de cabin also is young man and woman. Perhaps they is sweethearts. She huga him tight. We flya more high as mountain. De sun sparkles with brightness. Then, without de warning it geta dark. From de windows I cannot seea. De woman squeala loud. She crya, 'Darling, sava me! We burna up! Seea de smoke!'

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“Hah! Hah! It was de mistake. We does not burna, but I was fool-ed. We was in de cloud. By jingo, de airplane hida in there. Everywheres it looka like smoke. It was terrible.

“I think, it lasta for two minutes. I was paraliz-ed. De young man grab-ed de fire restinguisher with one hand. Then de airplane smasha out from de cloud. De sun, it shina brightly once more. I was so happy I singa song from de opera.

“Oh, de girl? I hopa I was not so pale, Mr. Lovett. The young man kissa her with sincerity. He tella her it is only de cloud. He drop-ed de restinguisha and saya, ‘Beautiful, you is always safe witha me!’ She says, ‘Oh, Harold, you is so wonderful lika Lindberg.’ Hah! Hah! It is de love what is wonderful. It was de chauffeur in front seat who sava us.

“Yes, we land-ed with success. We first make many circles above de field. All de time we falla down. My stomach misbehav-ed. It feela like long descent in de elevator.

“My prayers, they were answer-ed. De driver did not hita de trees. He aim-ed with success.

“It was indeed remendous desperiance. However, I does not thinka to flya again soon. It costa two dollars.”

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